



Bobby Hamilton Jr. pulls out a big finish for Team Marines. See Page C1.



Winner, Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson Award, Commercial-Enterprise Newspaper (2001-02)

VOL. 61 No. 49

WWW.PENDLETON.USMC.MIL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003

# High-altitude, lifesaving ‘doc’ decorated

SGT. ENRIQUE S. DIAZ  
SCOUT STAFF

Quick thinking, accurate assessment and a cool head came together to allow a Camp Pendleton Navy hospital corpsman to save the life of a Marine. For that, he was decorated here last week.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael V. Rakebrandt may think that saving lives is just part of the job, but to Marines like

Lance Cpl. David J. Silton it means a second chance.

On Nov. 26, Rakebrandt was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for accurately diagnosing Silton with life-threatening acute mountain sickness while their unit, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, was training at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center



SILTON

in Bridgeport Sept. 23.

Had Rakebrandt not understood the condition was worse than it appeared, the Marine could have died.

“If you don’t recognize it, you would accidentally diagnose it as a regular cold or just dizzy spells,” said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class David P. Carbungco, a hospital corpsman in Rakebrandt’s unit. “In this case, Doc Rakebrandt was on the

spot and took that chance and made the call.”

No one is more appreciative of Rakebrandt than Silton.

“My wife and my son are very thankful for what he has done,” Silton said. “He saved my life, he gave me a second chance at life and I realize what I could have lost.”

Silton fell ill during the mountain training. Initially, no one thought the condition was serious. But on closer inspection, Rakebrandt saw that what

seemed routine was actually a matter of life and death.

“When Silton went down, we thought he was dehydrated. But that was not the case, it was something more serious,” said Capt. Robert S. Weiler, Weapons Company’s commanding officer. “He got us to change our routine medical evacuation to an urgent medical evacuation.”

Rakebrandt accompanied Silton in the back of a humvee to a helicopter landing zone where he saw

his condition worsening. Silton was suffering from respiratory arrest.

He administered a liter of fluid to help with Silton’s pulse, repositioning the Marine’s head and placed an air securing device in Silton’s mouth to help his breathing.

Rakenbrandt then gave Silton a shot of epinephrine for fear of anaphylactic shot, a routine treatment for the high altitude according to Navy Lt. Kenneth Y.

See Award, Page A6

## Pendleton shoppers escape holiday logjam

■ Patrons find plenty of room and items in stock on day after Thanksgiving

SGT. COLIN WYERS  
SCOUT STAFF

Ryan Aragon knew exactly what he wanted for Christmas, even if he wasn’t tall enough to reach it.

“Mom! Mommy!” exclaimed the 3-year-old. “I want that!”

When his mother, Carrie Aragon, reached down to inspect the Fisher Price Imaginext set, she didn’t have to push past any other parents on the first official day of the holiday shopping season.

Stocks on the shelves weren’t dwindling — they were overflowing. And several of the checkout lines at the All Seasons store in the Main Exchange complex were empty.

Shoppers weren’t flooding Camp Pendleton’s Marine Corps Exchanges, but die-hard bargain hunters were on the prowl the day after Thanksgiving.

“There are better deals and a better selection (on base),” Aragon said. “You can’t find that much out in town anymore because people take it all. It’s not crazy like I saw Wal-Mart on the news.”

Stores off base are generally busier for the opening of the holiday season, according to Raymond Gainey, a shoe department worker at the Main Exchange who has previously worked at other retail outlets.

“There’s more customers at Wal-Mart and other places than here,” Gainey said. “There’s more stuff, but by the time you get to the different stores, it’s not all gone.”

Gainey also revealed where he would rather be for the holiday rush.

“Here,” he said with a chuckle.

Angelica McArthur hit the streets early, shopping both in town and at the Marine Corps Exchange before stopping at Hallmark in Pacific Plaza to get wrapping paper for the gifts she’d bought.

“You get the best deals,” said McArthur, explaining why she and so many other shoppers hit the bricks the day after Thanksgiving. “Things that

See Holiday, Page A6

## Buyers warned against holiday credit crusades

LANCE CPL. GRAHAM A. PAULSGROVE  
SCOUT STAFF

During the holidays, too many credit-card purchases can result in a flood of pesky calls from creditors in the new year. So base credit counselors are urging consumers to be cash-conscious before loading up loved ones with gifts.

Nonetheless, some Pendleton Marines plan to make plastic the rule rather than the exception when it comes to funding holiday gift-giving.

“I am using credit cards to cover my holiday expenses,” said Lance Cpl. Margarito Mendoza of 1st Force Service Support Group’s 1st Supply Battalion. “Christmas is the most expensive holiday and I have to pay my rent and car payments first.”

But credit-card crusaders should keep one thing in mind:

“You can’t live beyond your means,” said Michael G. Hire, director of Camp

See Credit, Page A6

## From the depths



CPL. JEREMY M. VOUGHT

Marines from the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, wade out of 60-degree water after falling more than 2,000 feet in their parachutes Tuesday afternoon off Red Beach. Seven of the 15 jumpers had never completed a water jump, one of the most dangerous jumps Recon Marines execute.

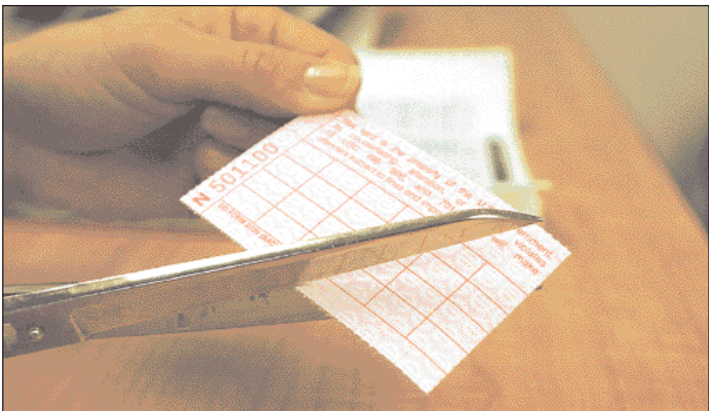
## Reservists reap full commissary benefit

CPL. LUIS R. AGOSTINI  
U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES PACIFIC

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Marine reservists can kiss their commissary privilege cards goodbye, thanks to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2004.

The card, which granted 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year, has been replaced with full commissary benefits given to members of the ready reserve (which includes members of the select-ed reserve, individual ready reserve), members of the retired reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card and their dependents, according to a Marine Corps press release dated Nov. 24.

That means reservists can



CPL. LUIS R. AGOSTINI

**Reservists are no longer required to present commissary privilege cards. Members who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card now receive full benefits.**

shop at Camp Pendleton’s commissary even if they’re not activated

One Marine reservist, Cpl. Cedric Smith, a service record book clerk for Headquarters and Service Battalion at Camp Smith, is departing Hawaii and looks forward to the benefits awaiting him.

“I’ll definitely use it a lot more now,” said Smith, a Vallejo, resident. “Travis Air Force Base is only 15 minutes away from where I live, so now I’ll get to go weekly, or whenever I want, instead of once a month.”

Fortunately, commissary privileges haven’t been a problem for many Marine reservists, especially the hundreds who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001.

“I’ve been on (reserve) orders for two years already,” said Cpl. Medehania Baheta, a service record book clerk with H & S Bn. and a San Jose resident. “And I might extend after January. So I really haven’t needed the commissary card since I’ve been able to go for a while.”

See Reservists, Page A6

## Camp Pendleton leathernecks mourn road accident deaths

■ TSB trio among those killed before Thanksgiving may have been driving too fast

SGT. ENRIQUE S. DIAZ  
SCOUT STAFF

They did everything right — except they may have been going too fast.

That’s the story emerging from the deaths of three 1st Transportation Support Battalion Marines killed Nov. 23 — among five Camp Pendleton Marines killed in accidents the weekend before Thanksgiving.

“These Marines were wearing their seat belts, they did have a designated driver, they were doing all the right things,” said Capt. Brook W. Barbour, commanding officer for Combat Service Support Company 115. “The accident

is still under investigation, but it appears that speed was a factor.”

“If you don’t do all the right things all the time, you have a possibility of having a problem,” he said. “Their loss will be felt.”

Four of the Marines were killed in two separate car accidents. Another died after suffering a sports injury.

The 1st TSB trio — Cpl. Scott A. Stasney, Lance Cpl. Chad N. Garner and Pvt. Michael A. Newton, all veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom — were pronounced dead shortly after midnight Nov. 23. They were returning from celebrating Garner’s 21st birthday in Temecula when the accident occurred.

The other vehicle accident claimed Pfc. Aaron M. Owens in Vista. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

Lance Cpl. Erick Roman of Combat Service Support Battalion 12 died Nov. 22 as a result of a head injury he suffered while playing football.

A memorial service was held Nov. 26 at the Marine Memorial Chapel at Main-side for the three TSB Marines.

Marines reeled at the news of the deaths.

“I couldn’t believe it,” said Lance Cpl. Michael A. Gruse, a friend who knew Newton since they attended

See Comrades, Page A6

### Index

Pendleton Points.....A2  
Commentary.....A4  
Pet of the Week.....B2  
Religious services.....B2  
Bulletin Board.....B2  
Family & Home.....B5  
On Your Mark.....C2  
Grandstand.....C2  
MCCS Update.....D2  
Classified Ads.....D3  
Military Marketplace..D5





COURTESY PHOTO BY TROY LANCASTER

Quantico-based Recon Marines “fastrope” from a UH-Y1 during testing recently. The aircraft, slated to replace the aging UH-1N, underwent tests to evaluate its ability to insert Marines into special warfare situations where landing the helicopter is not possible. Tests included rappelling, fastroping and free-fall parachute operations from as high as 10,000 feet.

## UH-1Y Huey completes special warfare training testing

BY JOHN C. MILLIMAN  
NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. - The Marine Corps’ newest utility helicopter, the UH-1Y, completed testing of its Special Warfare Kit today at Marine Corps Base Quantico in late November.

The 10-day long event tested the helicopter’s ability to insert Marines into special warfare situations where landing the helicopter is not possible.

Static line hung jumper evaluation, Special Purpose Insert and Extract rig, rappelling, fast rope, and free-fall parachute operations from heights including 10,000 feet comprised the evaluations of the new helicopter’s abilities.

Majors Pat Lindauer, William Sloan and Eldon Metzger flew the UH-1Y with Gunnery Sgt. Richard Ralich, Staff Sgt. Eric Jazak and Sgt. Skylar Panter acting as crew chiefs for the test flights. Reconnaissance Marines assigned to Quantico also participated in the testing.

“Recon Marines were part of the testing from the onset to ensure the configuration supported their mission,” Metzger said. “The tests went well and completed all requirements for special warfare.”

Correcting power deficiencies in the UH-1N Hueys is one of the primary reasons for the upgrade, as well as providing a platform for the Marines capable of inserting small combat teams into confined or rugged areas.

“We’ve restored the power margin lost in the N mod-

el,” Metzger added. “The Marines will be getting a good platform for helicopter rope suspension techniques.”

The improvements incorporated in the UH-1Y, including more powerful General Electric T-700 engines and an all-composite four-bladed rotor system, gives the new Huey a vastly improved capability to conduct these special warfare missions over the currently fielded Huey, the UH-1N.

“Our special warfare missions play an essential role in the Marine Corps’ MAGTF concept and Seapower 21 Sea Strike core capabilities,” explained Maj. Brad Schieferdecker, H-1 Upgrades deputy program manager for Engineering and Manufacturing Development here.

“The UH-1N’s restrictive power margin and weight restrictions have reduced our ability to do these missions in recent years,” Schieferdecker said. With the UH-1Y’s expanded performance, we’ll get back to being the Corps’ workhorse for these missions.”

The program recently passed a major milestone by gaining approval from the Defense Acquisition Board to begin low-rate initial production. Full-rate production of the AH-1Z and UH-1Y helicopters is scheduled to begin in 2006.

After remanufacture, the aircraft will feature the latest technology in rotor and drive train design, avionics, sensors and weapons. They also share approximately 84 percent of their parts, making them far more maintainable, supportable, survivable and deployable than today’s H-1 aircraft.

The H-1 upgrades integrated test team here currently has achieved approximately 1,500 flight test hours with five aircraft (three AH-1Z and two UH-1Y test aircraft, of which all but one AH-1Z are production representative).

The test aircraft have flown 220 knots, maneuvered from -0.4 to +3.5 g’s and been well above the 10,000-foot altitude mark.

By 2014, the Marine Corps will have procured 100 UH-1Y Hueys and 180 AH-1Z Super Cobras.

## 3rd MAW remembers

CPL. JEFF ZACCARO  
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR - The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing held a memorial service Tuesday at their headquarters building in honor of the 3rd MAW Marines who died during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The event began with the solemn sound of “Amazing Grace” played on bagpipes by Maj. James Kennedy, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 executive officer, accompanied by the 3rd MAW band.

Major Gen. James F. Amos, 3rd MAW commanding general, spoke to his troops, their families and the families of the deceased.

“... The cost of freedom has never been free,” Amos said during the speech. “It is bought with the currency of life. It is bought with the lives of husbands, of fathers, of sons, of grandsons, of friends. It is bought with the hard cash of our nation’s Marines.”

“Our country needs its Marines now more than ever,” Amos added. “To the family members here with us today, the Marines are going back into Iraq. We are going to finish the work that your loved ones began.”

An honor guard of Marines who personally knew and worked with the fallen marched in and positioned themselves in front of M-16A2 service rifles, flight helmets and boots

that memorialized their sacrifice.

As the 15 names were read 3rd MAW Marines rendered a salute and hung identification tags on the grip of the rifle.

After the final roll call was complete, a plaque, to be displayed in front of the 3rd MAW headquarters building bearing the 15 names was dedicated.

A 21 gun salute rang out as helicopters from each of the fallen Marines’ units flew a “missing man” formation overhead and Taps was played.

The ceremony was as much a sense of healing for Marines as it was a time to honor fallen comrades.

For Staff Sgt. Robert Scott, crew chief and maintenance controller with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, the memorial ceremony was a much-needed event to honor his friend and co-worker, Staff Sgt. Aaron D. White.

“He was a good Marine, and even as a staff sergeant he always strived to be one step better in everything he did,” Scott said. “This ceremony was a very appropriate way to finally give a lot of people a chance for closure.”



CPL. JEFF ZACCARO

Fifteen pairs of boots, M-16A2 service rifles and helmets were displayed in remembrance of the 15 fallen Marines from 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

57185681  
2 x 3.00  
STORAGE WEST  
FREE STORAGE

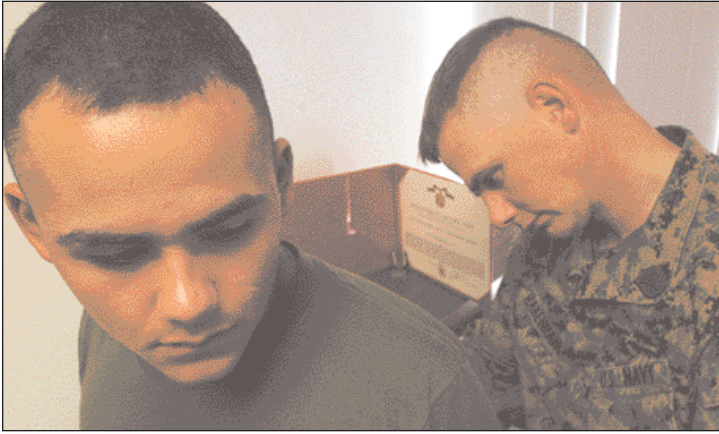
40187100  
2 x 11.00  
PACIFIC LAW CENTER  
FORWARD/SCOUT  
Full Color

67189628  
2 x 4.00  
SAN DIEGO INSURANCE PLACE  
RETAIL WEEKLY

40187098  
2 x 6.00  
LAPTOP TRAINING SOLUTIONS  
FORWARD/SCOUT  
OAAO

51191662  
6 x 3.00  
COWAN & GORMAN MARKETING  
BTM/MIL E-MAIL.COM  
Full Color





SGT. ENRIQUE S. DIAZ

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael V. Rakebrandt examines Pvt. George P. Hernandez, a mortarman with Weapons Company 2/4, to treat his back injury.

## Award

From Page A1

Son, 2nd Bn.'s surgeon. Doctors said Rakebrandt could always be relied upon to perform. "If I were a devil dog in the middle of Sunni Triangle (Iraq), I want Rakebrandt standing next to me," Son said. "When it gets tough out there in a time of war, he's the type of guy that would prevail and take care of his Marines," added Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Roger L. Brisley, a 2nd Bn. corpsman.

Silton said the incident left him more confident. "Don't be afraid to perform," he said. "Your corpsman will be there to take care of you, just like mine took care of me".

But throughout all of the attention, Rakebrandt has remained humble. "I don't think what I did was any more special than what any of the other corpsman would have done," he said. "Nobody was getting any sleep, there was a lot of moving parts that kept Lance Corporal Silton alive."

E-mail Sgt. Diaz at: DiazES@pendleton.usmc.mil

## Comrades

From Page A1

motor transport operator's school together. "I wasn't expecting this to happen to Newton. He was always a nice guy. He was a friend."

The deaths caused some to contemplate the loss to their own lives. "They did extraordinary things in the time God gave them," said Lance Cpl. Angus R. Hamilton. "Newton was the life of the party. He could make anybody laugh," and Garner was "the big brother to us, he'd

HAMILTON

take care of us, back us up." "He was always laughing. He had that Jim Carrey personality," Lance Cpl. Mike L. Tester said about Garner, whom he knew since the war.

"He had a son he never got to meet. His son was born when he was in Iraq," Tester added.

The friendship shared by so many with these Marines wasn't the only thing taken away.

The guidance and leadership they gave others can never be replaced.

"My heart just dropped down in my stomach," said Lance Cpl. Mathew J. Spencer, Stasney's roommate. "Cpl. Stasney taught me pretty much everything I know so far about the Marine Corps. He was a squared away Marine, on point all the time," he said.

Email Sgt. Diaz at: DiazES@pendleton.usmc.mil

## Reservists

From Page A1

For others, like Staff Sgt. Tanya Longbine, the staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the MarForPac security branch, commissary privileges have not been an issue.

"I've been on orders ever since I got out," said the Rochester, N.Y., resident. "I don't even know where the closest commissary is back home."

Either way, the Defense Commissary Agency plans on immediately making the shopping experience for all service

members — active, reserve and retired, and their dependents — more convenient.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers."

## Credit

From Page A1

Pendleton's Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society branch on Mainside. "This extends to giving family members extravagant gifts."

Hire urged Marines to avoid overspending and buying gifts that quickly deplete their pay.

"During this time of year, people tend to spend money they do not have, which leads to excessive debt and a long-term headache," Hire said.

"When the bill comes, instead of paying off the debt, the recipient pays the minimum fee, extending the time in debt," he added. "Eight months after the holidays, they are out of debt, just in time for the holiday season to start again."

Hire said using credit cards to avoid depleting cash funds could be dangerous. It's easy to lose track of how much you have spent.

He cited two keys to avoiding debt:

■ Pay cash after all essential bills are paid.

■ When cash supplies runs out, stop spending money.

Some Marines are already taking the lessons to heart.

"I plan on buying all my presents with cash because I don't like dealing with credit cards," said Pfc. Eddy R. Rudolph of 9th Communication Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force. "I prefer being punished in the beginning than the end because credit will definitely bite you in the end."

Many problems stemming from holiday overspending don't show up im-

mediately. According to Jo Rilling, a financial management specialist with the Personal Services Division of Marine Corps Community Services here, most overwhelmed debtors visit her a month or two after the bills pile up.

Hire said families can avoid credit pitfalls by remembering it's the thought that counts.

"Most families want to give the best things in the world to their loved ones, but the most expensive things are not always the best things to give," he said.

Gift-giving can be something more personal and not necessarily expensive.

"Come up with a creative way to express the spirit of the holidays," Hire said.

According to Rilling, by giving something homemade over something store bought, it shows more time

and thought was put into the gift.

"During the holidays, stay practical, streamline your expenses and practice charity every day of the year," Rilling said.

If debt starts piling up, Rilling recommended putting the credit cards away and paying the bills. If the debt is unmanageable, base consumers can get assistance from PSD or the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Holiday debt is a recurring problem, with the best intentions often landing well-meaning Marines and sailors into trouble.

"Christmas is an emotionally driven holiday and money is emotionally driven as well, which is a dangerous combo," Rilling said.

E-mail Lance Cpl. Paulsgrove at: PaulsgroveGA@pendleton.usmc.mil

## Holiday

From Page A1

normally aren't on sale are today."

McArthur said that although prices off base were better than the exchange, selection on base was better.

She found other differences as well.

"You can be checked out quicker here," she said. "And

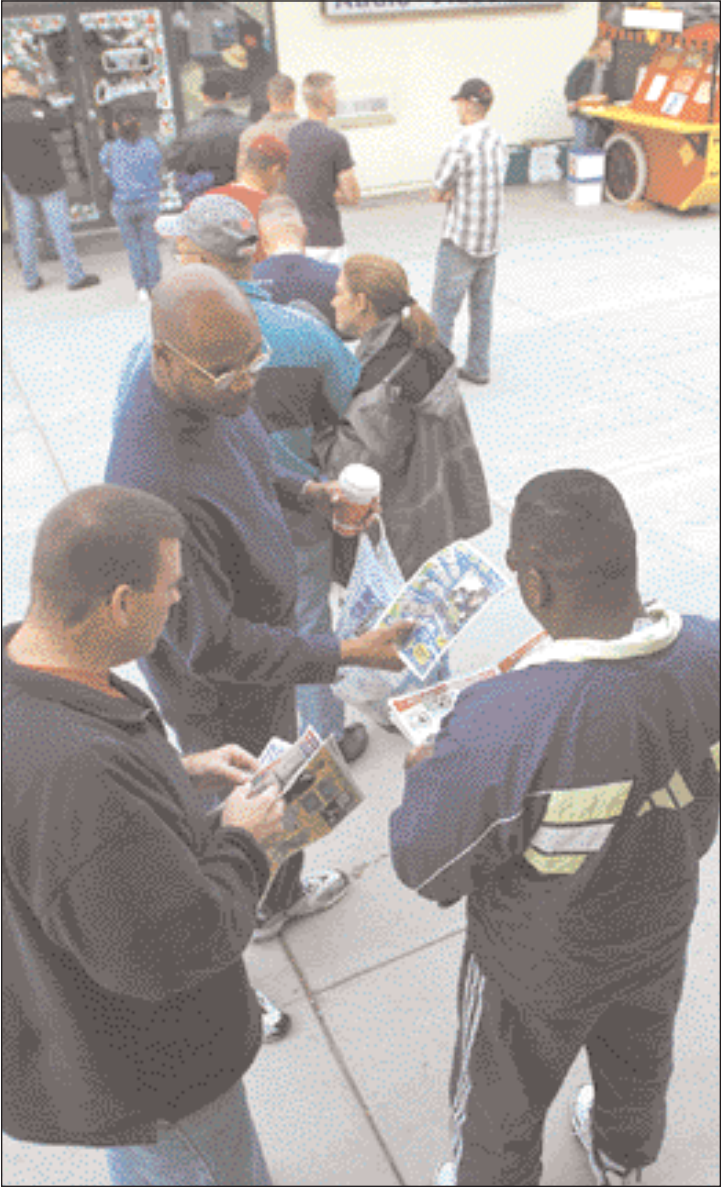
the exchange has stuff that was out (of stock) at Target."

Shopping on base wasn't just about the best deals or greater selections.

Sarah Roberts, a supervisor at the Home Store, preferred the Main Exchange for a different reason.

"Here, it's the Marine Corps family," said Roberts. "It's giving back."

E-mail Sgt. Wyers at: WyersC@pendleton.usmc.mil



CPL. JEREMY M. VOUGHT

Sgt. Maj. Curtis Anderson, Master Sgt. Vincent Alexander and Sgt. Tim Edgar wait in line at the Main Exchange. Base exchanges saw a surge in customers the day after Thanksgiving — but not close to the herds of people found off base trying to start their holiday shopping early.

80190127  
2 x 2.00  
ACADEMY OF DENTAL CAREERS  
RETAIL FLAT CHARGE

80190156  
2 x 2.00  
JOHNSTON & ASSOC.  
RETAIL WEEKLY

54189525  
2 x 5.00  
WINDSOR CAPITAL  
RETAIL FLAT CHARGE

56185766  
2 x 7.00  
MISSION ROAD SELF STORAGE  
STORAGE

45156400  
2 x 10.00  
ARMED FORCES COMM. INC.  
WEBSTER/WE COVER



# Future uniforms: New capabilities, less weight

BY DONNA MILES  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — They call it the “Christmas tree” effect. Defense engineers come up with the latest new gadgets and gizmos to help troops on the battlefield, and—just like ornaments being added to the holiday tree — they “hang” them on the warfighter.

As a result, troops frequently carry a full combat load of 75, 100 or even 150 pounds.

“What warfighters are carrying today is just ridiculous,” said Robert Kinney, director of the Individual Protection Directorate at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass.

“Our challenge is to provide greater protections and capabilities, but with less weight and bulk,” he added.

Kinney, engineers, and researchers at the center, which conducts research and development for all the military services, is committed to reducing the load being carried by service members — while making them safer and more formidable on the battlefield.

Their goal, he said, is to incorporate new, lighter-weight materials to reduce troop loads by almost half, to 50 pounds or less.

At the same time, Natick engineers are exploring advanced technologies that will give warfighters of the future capabilities once thought restricted to the fictitious Power Rangers, Terminator and Contra series characters.

Tomorrow’s warfighters, Kinney said, will wear uniforms with built-in chemical-biological protection, embedded with electric wires and

fiber optics that give sophisticated battlefield capabilities.

Uniforms will be waterproof and flame — resistant, with built — in insect repellent, antibacterial agents that help stop open injuries from getting infected, and even antimicrobial agents that keep odor in check.

New synthetic materials being explored will make the uniforms warmer in cold environments, cooler in hot ones, and lighter in weight and bulk.

In addition, uniforms of the future will be enable troops to adapt quickly to changing conditions.

They’ll change color, chameleon-style, to reflect the surrounding environment.

Boots will come with snap-on soles for different terrains and removable liners that can be replaced when they get wet.

Headgear will take on a whole new dimension, protecting against ballistic and fragmentation while serving as the wearer’s personal “control center.”

Tomorrow’s helmets will integrate thermal sensors, video cameras, and chemical and biological sensors.

They’ll include a visor that can act as a “heads-up display monitor” equivalent to two 17-inch computer monitors in front of the wearer’s eyes. And powering all the warfighter’s gear will be a single battery, capable of running 24 hours or longer before being recharged.

As futuristic as these technologies may sound, many are being incorporated into the Army’s Objective Force Warrior — which LeeAnn Barkhouse, business liaison for the program, describes as a “system of systems” being developing for warfighters in 2010 and beyond.



OFFICIAL U.S. ARMY PHOTO

The objective force warrior program offers a glimpse into advances planned for warfighters in 2010 and beyond.

The program is expected to become a prototype for all the military services, she said.

Barkhouse said Objective Force Warrior introduces a far-ranging array of new capabilities, many of them embedded directly into the warfighter’s uniform to reduce the heavy, cumbersome add-ons that have evolved over time.

And unlike the current combat load, which imposes immense weights on the warfighter’s back and shoulders, Barkhouse said the new system will center its lighter load at the body’s strongest point: the waist and hips.

Gone will be the “Christmas tree effect.” In its place, she said, will be a system that works with, rather than against, the warfighter’s body — and offers almost unimaginable new capabilities.

“It represents a tremendous advance,” Barkhouse said.

# ‘Vast majority’ of Iraq relatively stable, Rumsfeld tells reporters

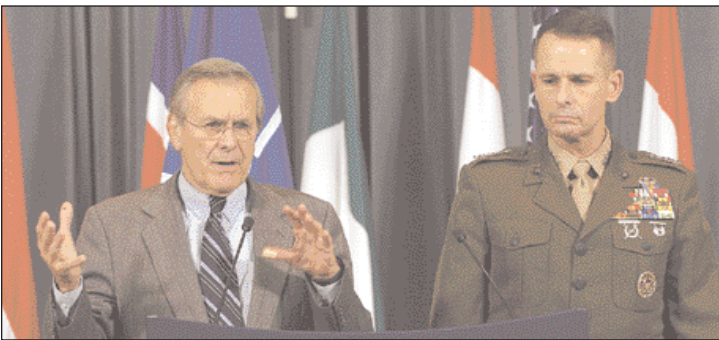
JOHN D. BANUSIEWICZ  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

BRUSSELS, Belgium,—Though sporadic violence continues in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said that “the vast majority of the country” is relatively stable and not in conflict.

Rumsfeld, along with Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met with reporters at NATO headquarters Monday.

“There’s no question but that there are periodic incidents where people have been killed or wounded — we know that,” Rumsfeld said. “We also know that the schools are open, the hospitals are open, the clinics are open, that people are engaged in economic activity throughout the country, and that the vast majority of the country is not in conflict. It is in a relatively stable circumstance.”

Rumsfeld said a limited number of people in Iraq are determined to kill both innocent people involved with the coalition and innocent Iraqis.



AIR FORCE TECH SGT. ANDY DUNAWAY

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld responds to a reporters question during a press conference at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

Pace, who just visited Iraq, agreed with the assessment.

“You have those who are bent on preventing the Iraqi people from experiencing freedom — those who look and see what tremendous progress has been made and are afraid that their ‘thuggery,’ their way of intimidation, is in fact being overpowered” by the coalition and the Iraqi people’s will, Pace said.

Pace said it’s hard to tell on the basis of one attack whether the Mondays firefight means

they’ve changed their tactics or have access to coordinated intelligence.

“The fact is that in this particular case, about 50 or so of the enemy did collect together for whatever reason they thought was appropriate,” he said.

“They attacked, and they were killed,” Pace said.

“So I think it would be instructive to them for future analysis when they’re thinking about what they’re going to do next,” he added.

58173561  
3 x 4.00  
PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA  
RETAIL FLAT CHARGE

67189632  
3 x 3.00  
CHANG, D.D.S.  
FAMILY/COSMETIC

44185552  
3 x 8.00  
CPD WIRELESS  
AT&T UPFRONT PLEASE!

14187233  
3 x 10.50  
SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP  
3X10.5 CAREER ADV. C